

Coldest Town Explored By Nahanni Safari

EXCLUSIVE

Wartime Boom Centre Empty Husk of City

This is the third in a series of articles presented exclusively by THE EDMONTON BULLETIN from Pierre Berton, who with other members of The Vancouver Sun's exploration party, has set out to reveal the secrets of the South Nahanni Valley.

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By PIERRE BERTON

WITH THE HEADLESS VALLEY EXPEDITION, PINCH LAKE, Feb. 8. — At the foot of a mountain full of mercury we found a town built for 2,500 persons lying silent and empty in the ice-locked fastness of the north.

It was a strange sort of ghost town that we explored after our Nahanni-bound aircraft set its skis down on the sheet ice of Pinchi Lake. No buildings slant at crazy angles on rotting streets, nor do the ghosts of stampede days haunt its empty houses.

The buildings — stores, homes, dormitories, offices, bowling alley, movie theatre and dance hall — stand neatly painted and pin-neat along the orderly streets and only the silence and the boarded windows tell you that this wartime boom town is now only an empty husk of a city.

Metal Waiting to Be Mined

Eight years ago, this lake and mountain were nothing more than a routine bank of topography on the crazy-built pattern of central British Columbia's lake and forest system. But by mid-war years, Pinchi Lake was producing virtually all the mercury for the United Nations. It was the biggest mercury mine in the British Empire, the biggest in North America.

The maddening puzzle of Pinchi Lake is that the mercury is still there, a whole mountain full of it, asking to be mined. But the world's biggest mercury mine stands idle although it is equipped to turn out 1,200 tons of mercury a month, as it did in the peak war years.

It Comes From Franco Spain

Today Canada's mercury comes not only from its own mines on the shores of Pinchi Lake, but from Italy and from Franco-dominated Spain.

Why did Pinchi Lake shut down tight in 1941? Why were there 1,500 flasks of unmined mercury on hand at the mine at the first of this year? Why is the mercury shipped across the ocean from Europe still allegedly underselling the Canadian product? These are some of the questions that the men of the north, who helped stake out the Pinchi area in the pioneer days of 1938, would like to have answered.

Lawrence Dickinson, the Fort St. James general merchant who staked one of the first claims in the area and still owns a bunk of Pinchi's secret, says the answer himself. Officials of the Canadian Mining and Smelting Co., which owns the mine and the mine, tell him it's "the mercury market." They say they

Ace in Hole if War Comes

Pinchi Lake itself, wrapped in a mantle of wartime secrecy, is still pretty much of an unknown quantity to the average Canadian. Few laymen realize that British Columbia's back yard is a mineral desert that ranks with the top mercury mines of the world.

Even in its dormant state Pinchi Lake is Canada's ace in the hole in the event of a third world war.

The full story of the discovery of this fabulous rich deposit, just minutes flying time from Fort St. James, has never been told. It is a bizarre and romantic saga. Bound up with it is the story

Baker Passed Up Claim

Elliot flew into Pinchi with prospector named Dan Miner and sampled the ore but Elliot's findings never bore fruit. On the trip his position plane crashed into an unknown lake. Dan Miner was killed outright and Elliot, died in hospital after his engineers' men, Martin, crushed injured his legs through bush and stream for the

That spring, Andy Ostrem, his secret still intact, flew into Pinchi with his bush pilot, Russ Baker, and staked the claim that was to make him rich for life.

Shortly afterward, Baker and his co-pilot, John Blackie, who had flown Charley Elliott to the hospital, staked claims of their own on Pinchi Lake.

Baker, who is piloting our plane to Nahanni River's Headless Valley, told me wryly how he looked at ore samples, decided they were worthless and flung them aside. He didn't bother to record his

"If I'd paid \$230 I would have been rich today," he said. "I've kicked myself for it ever since."

Meanwhile Ostrem, and some of his friends had staked 13 claims in the area.

Those claims, when they were purchased almost eight years ago by the C. M. & S. made their six owners fabulously rich.

A fine hockey rink for the town which has been his home since 1911. But Dickinson's mercury mines brings in no dividends today.

The mercury ore still lies beneath the mountain at the base of the glory hole which yawns skyward as you fly over it on route north.

The miniature city, which mercury built on a top priority basis and shrouded in secrecy during the war years, is silent today.

Bought for a small sum, the winter's supply of Pinchi Lake is sold for a small sum. The men from the mill of the million-dollar mountain.



TOUGH GUY: John O'Brien, one of the gang of five surprised by police during an attempt to steal a million dollars from a Chicago real estate office and currency exchange, still struggles as cops lead him to a cell. In the gunplay that broke up the robbery three policemen were wounded and two bandits killed. One gunman escaped.



PREPPING FOR RECORD FLIGHT: Plane above is "Betty Joe," the Army's P-52 Twin Mustang, that will attempt 5,000-mile non-stop flight from Honolulu to New York, longest hop ever attempted by a fighter-type plane. It is pictured in test flight over Los Angeles. Beneath wings are four 310-gallon drop tanks for the extra fuel needed for the trip.



PRESS AGENCY HITS A NEW LOW: Some folks say who appears to have gone to the bottom of the sea to promote Florida's annual Citrus Week. However, he's just at the bottom of the huge tank at Winter Haven's Marine Studio, spreading the news to porpoise and other fish.



GIANT IN FACT: Supervised by missus, Mary Louise, Chet Hartung, out of Army Air Forces, puts baseball in hand of and feeds two-year-old stepson, Steven Lynn Hyden, at home. Yes, home. An 18-year-old, six-foot four-and-a-half-inch, 215-pound Hartung batted .358 in Class C Northern League in 1942, pitched and batted phenomenally as an outfielder in service since, New York Giants gave Minneapolis club \$35,000 and four players for contract of most widely heralded post-war prospect.



HUTTENRUTE WOMEN: Huttenrute, who established colonies in Southern Alberta toward the close of the first World War, are beginning to drift back to the U. S. Two colonies already have settled in the Augusta, Montana area. Several other groups have left Manitoba, settling on some of the lands in South Dakota, they vacated when the U. S. withdrew immunity from military service during World War I.

The Huttenrute brotherhood dates back to Protestant Reformation, when their famous leader, Jacob Hutten, was burned at the stake for his religion. Colonies are largely self-contained. No private property is held; the farms are worked collectively. Both men and women draw as did their ancestors three or four centuries ago. The women wear homespuns with layers of petticoats, an overall apron and kerchief or bonnet.



TO INTONE "I DO'S" Screen Actress Bonita Granville is again with her fiancé, Jack D. Wreather, Texas oil man and film producer, after they obtained their marriage license in Los Angeles. They said they would be married shortly.



MAY MAKE GOVERNORS ENVOI: The ultra-modernistic structure pictured above is a scale model of the proposed \$230,000 mansion for Michigan's governors. Designed by architect Alden B. Dow, the building provides workable business space for the governor, complete privacy for his family.



BEAUTY GETS KISS: Lovely Pat Drope, chosen queen of the University of British Columbia Mardi Gras, is given a congratulatory kiss by Eric W. Mamber, chancellor of the university and former B.C. lieutenant-governor during the crowning ceremony.

William Penn never dreamed he'd be talking through his hat to help Philadelphia's police, but that's what he will be doing. Famous William Penn statue atop Philadelphia's City Hall has been rigged up with an antenna that will permit simultaneous two-way radio-telephone conversation between police headquarters and patrol cars.



OFF ON A ROYAL TOUR: The British Royal Family and relatives pose outside the Royal Quarters on HMS Vanguard, prior to the departure from Portsmouth, England, for a tour of South Africa. Left to right: Princess Elizabeth, the Duchess of Kent, King George, Queen Mother Mary, Queen Elizabeth, the Duke of Gloucester (background), Princess Margaret Rose and the Princess Royal.



HERMIT FAMILY GOES TO TOWN — FOR HAIR CUTS: The three children in photo at left, above, recently got their first haircuts when they were brought into San Diego, Calif., from the top of nearby Goshute Mountain, where their parents had lived as hermits for the past 15 years. Pictured with them is their mother, Mrs. Tanya Del South, who recently divorced her long-haired, post-hermit husband, Marshall Del South, right, for cruelty. Children are Rudyard, 8; Bidee, 12; and Victoria, 6.



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NEW OPPOSITION STRENGTH: Two new Progressive Conservative Members of Parliament. At left is C. Miller, K.C., who won Portage in Prairie from Liberals; at right is A.H. Harold Timmins, K.C., who held Toronto's Parkdale constituency.

Meet "Steve Canyon" Drawn by Milton Caniff on The Comic Page Daily

Advised to Give Rough Treatment

Dear Miss Dix: I am married to a whiner. Somebody is always doing something to her, or to one of my family, her family, and me. She is constantly irritated over the little things that happen, and she will not come to the house any more because my wife makes things so disagreeable.

I have lived this for many years and I have become sick and tired of it and am about to throw in the sponge.

DISGUSTED HUSBAND Answer: Well, brother I am not going to lay any weight at your feet because I think that there is no virtue in unnecessary marriage, and that any man who lets a

service, whining, complaining woman spoil his life with her nagging has only himself to blame for his misery. If he had the strength and courage to stand up and have one good fight with her, he could probably make her afraid to even utter another word.

THE KIND OF women who are always picking on their husbands and saying little mean things to them and criticizing them are invariably cowards who are taking advantage of the fact that their husbands are tied to them and have to stand any sort of treatment. Or so they think. That a coward can always be blind and all that a husband would have to do is to stand up and tell them to stop. If they thought their good living was going to be taken away from them.

This is the type of woman with whom no gentleman is fitted to deal. The more high-minded, the more tender and chivalrous he is, the more helpless a victim he becomes to such a wife, and so she amuses herself by torturing him to death with her nagging. The only



THESE WOMEN By d'Alessio

"Of course I know where I'm going to find somebody who can tell me where I am!"

SIDE GLANCES by Galbraith



No, there are no cookies or leftover cake—your father simply gobbles up everything in sight since he has quit smoking!"

OUR BOARDING HOUSE by Gene Ahern



WELL, WHAT'S THE POINT OF THIS? I DON'T WANT TO GO TO THE BOARDING HOUSE. I DON'T WANT TO GO TO THE BOARDING HOUSE. I DON'T WANT TO GO TO THE BOARDING HOUSE.

Bridge By William E. McKeeney Today's rubber bridge hand came up recently in a game in which I played with Bob Hawk as my partner. South the declarer was A. M. Sobel, one of the national tournament directors of the American Contract Bridge League. I want to see if you will agree with Sobel's mathematical theories on the play.

Upon holding the first trick with the ace of diamonds, I shifted to the spade, which Hawk (East) won. He returned the four of clubs, and finesse was taken on the play.

He might find the diamonds divided four-three, in which case he could discard dummy's loser club on his diamond queen. He might even find the spades divided three-three and he could discard the club from his hand.

So he went up with the ace of clubs and played a small diamond to dummy's king. He led a small heart and again decided against a finesse, figuring that if it lost, he would lose the club trick immediately.

Of course if he had finessed the queen of hearts, he could have made the contract. But he went down.

Medicine is expensive, as you know if you've been in the spot Actress Joan Winfield was in unpleasant anyway and can be somewhat averted by proper diet.

By Josephine Lowman If you don't have pets you miss a lot of fun. At our house we have had five dogs and five cats in succession—the dogs for our son and the cats for our daughter.

ANIMALS are not dumb but people are if they think so. Fantasy was as much a member of the family as any of us, and she was very smart. One day Daddy called me to the telephone and said, "Oh, bring Fanny to the telephone and put the receiver up to her ear."

I did. My father said, "Fanny, I have some meat for you. Come here."

came up with the ace and led the queen of diamonds, hoping to discard the club from dummy's hand. He was overfitted with the jack and won the trick with the king of hearts, trying for the spade split. Hawk trumped with the king of hearts and led another club.

came up to standard or not. You would always be afraid that he was thinking of this or that, or that you were talking on a little weight, or your hair was beginning to get gray, or that your line of conversation wasn't as peppy as it used to be.

A comfortable husband is one who takes wife "as is" and who thinks that she is the most beautiful and wonderful woman in the world because he picked her out.

Nor would I care to have a man for a husband who fancied himself a devil among the women. That kind of thing grows on a man, and it takes more broad-mindedness than Lord Gird gives any woman not to get peeved when she sees her husband flirting with women younger and fairer than she is.

I don't think your fiancé is a good matrimonial risk.

ASKEN, Yorkshire, England - (CP) - This colliery village is asking for a better beer, because 300 mining trainees billeted here drink up supplies on their Wednesday pay day. Miners are paid on Friday and have nothing to drink.

GALS AGLEE by E. Simms Campbell



TEA KETTLES

Here are some Sweet Tips for you. Spray perfume (now that store-bought is scarce) over your hair over your head, lightly, to give a soft, beguiling sweetness. Spray your cupboard walls, your hat boxes, glove box and suitcase. You'll have lingering sweetness wherever you go.

Of Knitting Worsted

Send TWENTY CENTS in coins for this pattern. It cannot be accepted to The Edmonton Bulletin. It is from the Front Street, W. Toronto, 1st. Ont. Print plainly NAME, ADDRESS, PATERN NUMBER.

There oughta be a law

By FAGALY and SHORTEN

STAY OUT PISTACHIO! BUT GET A LOAD OF HER DOAGING THE KID HOME FROM A SHOPPING TRIP.

Why Grow Old?

our face and eyes, without any of the real-life appearance which comes with age. I have never seen anything more regal than when he looks at us with disdain when we are too much for him. In more playful times he has been seen to look at the diva as he streaks across the room. He is grace itself in action.

I used to think of cats as dumb because it is difficult to train them. But I have decided that they are just independent. I don't think they do anything they don't want to do and I envy them a little.

Yes pets are trouble, especially if you are the mother of the home and are not a strict disciplinarian. I always found myself walking the dogs and feeding the cats. For a long time I drew the line at gold fish. They irritate me because they look so dumb in the face and wiggle all the time. Always I have clean goblets and hate to see them all rooked on that and now feed them too.

OUR CHILDREN refused to put tadpoles in buckets in their bedroom to watch them change into frogs. Once after I put up with Fanny all night when she had babies, which was often.

My sister has the smartest, sweetest dog I ever saw. Unlike my pet she is beautifully trained. "Bo" never goes in a dog shed of meat. Like any well-trained dog, he waits for his father's order to pass first. Besides, he can laugh. He actually has facial expression and understands practically everything you say to him.

MY DAUGHTER has a beautiful cat, a lion-like creature who is most affectionate. He has gone

gentle policy may not be sufficient in amounts to acidity this type of milk. The result may be the formation of large curds in the stomach which seem to defy digestion.

Adding an acid to the formula, also the stomach takes to do their necessary work. Then, we say that the stomach takes to do their necessary work.

Because lactate acid digestion a formula containing this does not need to have so much additional water. In fact, many lactate acid formulas use whole cow's milk as a base with the sugar and lactate acid as the only additions to it.

These formulas are easy to make, but they do demand that the acid be added in the milk very slowly so that a fine curd develops, and they cannot be over-beaten when served to the child and they will separate.

Babies do not mind these sourd formulas at all. In fact they enjoy them. So the antagonism is all in the mind of the mother. Knowing the "why" of them may allay her doubts.

Our easy infant No. 22 "Purified and Early Feedings" contains formulas for lactate acid milk. It may be had in any drug store, or by direct order from the publisher, 100 Front Street, W. Toronto, 1st. Ont. Please allow a week or ten days for delivery.

Send TWENTY CENTS in coins (stamps can not be accepted) for this pattern. Print plainly NAME, ADDRESS, STYLE NUMBER.

Send your order to The Edmonton Bulletin, Pattern Department 80 Front Street, W. Toronto, 1st. Ont. Please allow a week or ten days for delivery.

In knitting, Pattern 7219 has directions for sizes 10-12, 14-16, 18-20. This pattern, easy to use, simple to sew, is tested for fit. Includes complete illustrated instructions.

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Minute Make-Ups

For YOU... For anyone's trouble, seal Make pattern 4921, a beautiful and well-fitting make-up with its own built-in-clipper combs. This lovely set is simple sewing.

Pattern 4921 in 12, 14, 16, 18, 20 Size 16, nightgown and slippers, 3% yds. scales is \$4.25.

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Elizabeth Woodward Says...

Your whole class is buzzing with plans for the winter road. Somebody had the brilliant idea that it's all in just what the doctor ordered. The girls are supposed to invite another couple as you're really have a big crowd. This is going to be a road to

and all rooms. There are committee meetings going on every day—going to play—where to have it—what to eat besides watermelon—what to drink—what to wear—going to be the biggest thing of the year happened!

And so you're in it up to your neck. Every girl with the idea, so you're practically every committee. You're working your head off to make it a success.

And you're not a very chance on your boy either. You spotted the guy you would like and nabbed him.

You've been going to be left high and dry with your left eye. You've been left high and dry with your left eye.

WOODWARD That's right about you small details. You forgot to ask your Dad if you could go. You've never had a real date. You've been busy with all of talk about your dating at home. Your Dad insists that you're plenty young to start dating. You're plenty young to start dating.

time for all that. There's no point in rushing the gun. Once you start dating, hell's bells will where you are or what you're doing. Home will be just a place to change your shoes. He'll look forward to it. And, of course, you're chafing at the bit.

So you kept all the plans for the winter road very much hush around the house. You wouldn't even mention it over the phone. The family might get a bad idea that something was up... you were meeting with excitement.

Maybe if you had a little thing about it until the last minute, it would be his late for your Dad to put his foot back. What if he doesn't like winter roads? This is a class activity. Everybody in your class is doing it. You're practically the chairman of the thing. Everybody's

the designer laid suggestions on being well-dressed, among them. Buy good clothes and don't be afraid to wear them a long time. Use this calendar and wear the best heels only with sports clothes; always wear a hat in public.

Points for Parents

Not This This

Mother: "Go back to your room and hang up your pajamas. I'm going to go right on telling you to hang them up until you get the habit of doing it."

Mother: "On days your room is in order before you go to school, you may draw a star on this calendar and wear a Saturday treat when a whole week is starred."

may think we are helping doing something when what we are really doing is only helping them form the habit of waiting to be told to do it.

American Envy

HORIZONTAL 1. Plotted U.S. diplomat. 4. Set (verb). 13. Diet. 14. Set (verb). 15. Symmetrical figure. 16. Give as an intangible. 17. Musical note. 18. Mad. 19. Mad. 20. Deputed. 21. Clothing. 22. Disheveled. 23. Villain. 24. Trap. 25. Skin. 26. Skin. 27. Skin. 28. Skin. 29. Skin. 30. Skin.

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STEVE CANYON



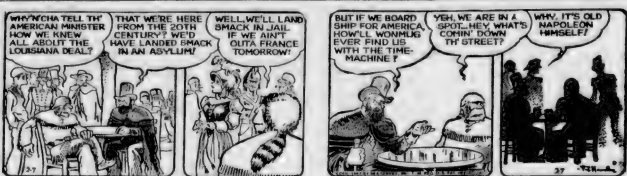
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News From District Points

Discuss Highway At Chamber Meet

POINT MEMURRAY—Regular monthly meeting of the Waterways and Highway Chamber of Commerce was held in the Waterways code recently. Due to weather conditions only about 30 regular members attended. Business started with the usual dinner followed by an interesting address by Mr. McMurtry, the invited guest. Mr. McMurtry is the assistant to H. E. Cooper, the manufacturing manager of the Hudson's Bay Co. Winnipeg.

He concluded his remarks on pointing out the advantages to be gained by a highway link not through to connect Point McMurtry with Edmonton and he hoped this would be realized.

Business then followed which dealt chiefly with the proposed road to Wandanville river.

Mr. Martin and Mr. Gordon Mayne were elected as a delegation to represent the district at the next sitting of the provincial house and bring the matter before them.

C. A. Palmer was appointed to form an anti committee to obtain the necessary data for the preparation of a suitable booklet for the chamber.

SKIER TO BANISH

RED DEER—The ski club have just early Sunday morning have been chartered buses for Banff where they plan to spend a day at their favourite spot. The party will return the same day. This is the second of such trips the club has made this season.

ACID INDIGESTION QUICKLY RELIEVED

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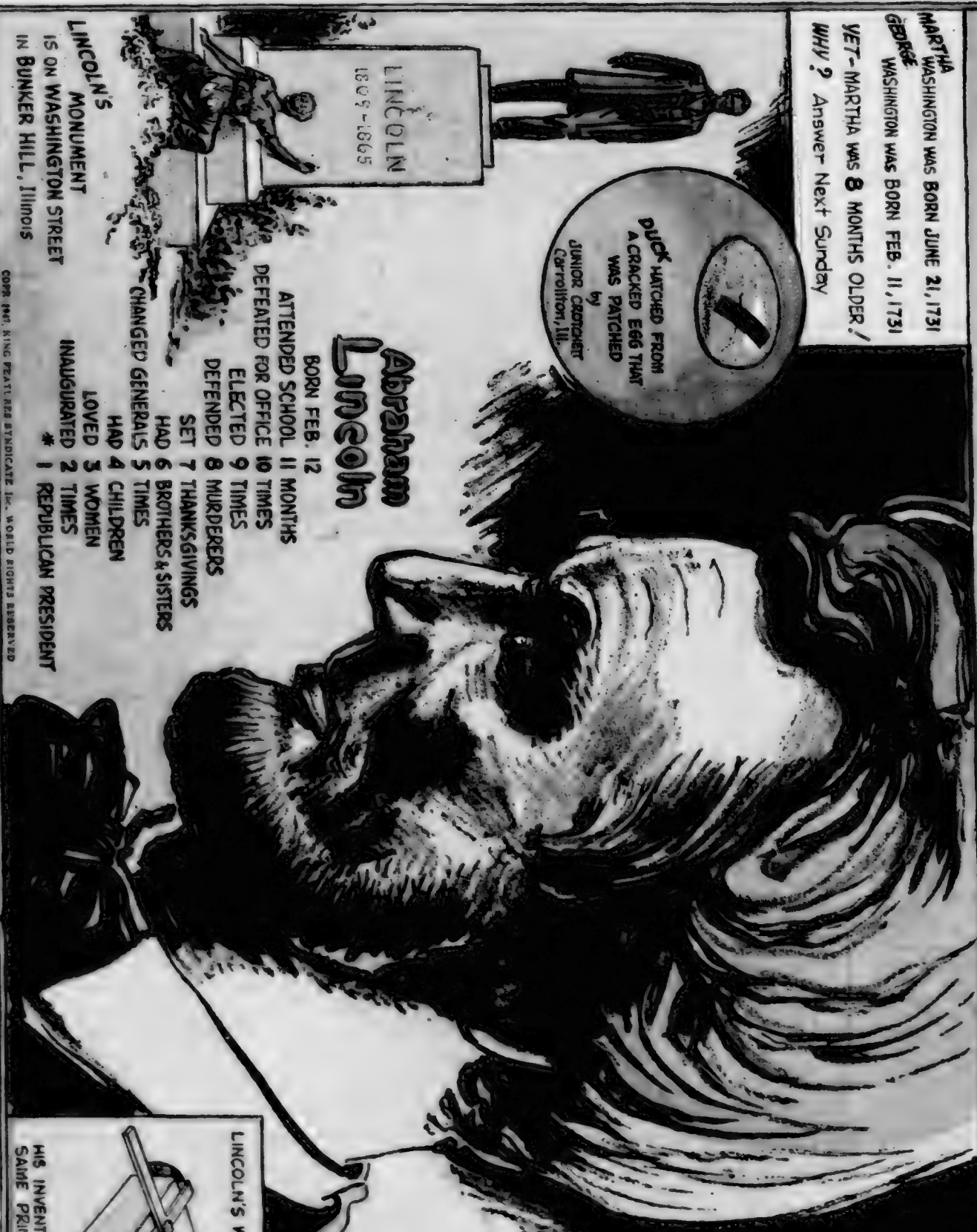
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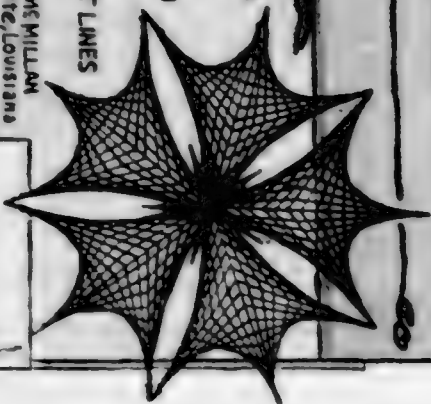
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 DEFEATED FOR OFFICE 10 TIMES
 ELECTED 9 TIMES
 DEFENDED 8 MURDERERS
 SET 7 THANKSGIVINGS
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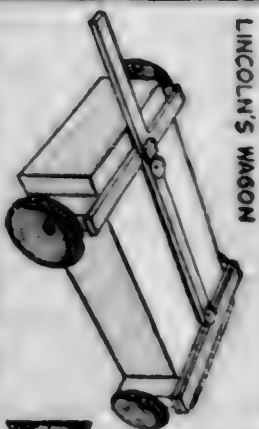


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THE MORNING PAPER

AFTER being arrested for breaking into the Teenie Weenie town hall, Ginky and his light-pawed friend were locked up in the pint fruit jar which the little folk use for a jail. It wasn't very pleasant there because the greedy mice received only two grains of corn a day. After a few days of being shut up, they became very humble. They offered to lead upright lives if the Teenie Weenies would set them free, and they crossed their mousy hearts to prove their good intentions. Finally the Teenie Weenies set the mice free. But in no time the rascals were up to their old tricks, as the Teenie Weenies learned from Tilly Titter, their morning newspaper.

The English sparrow flies all about the neighborhood of the Teenie Weenie village and nothing misses her bright little eyes. Almost every morning she brings gossip to the little folk and that is most welcome, for Teenie Weenies do not get about often during the cold weather when deep snow covers the ground.

One morning the Teenie Weenie Cook put on three dried peas to boil while he waited for the two pans of Teenie Weenie bread to bake in the tiny stove oven. The Lady of Fashion began washing up the hazel nut mixing bowl and the Policeman, who had smelled the baking bread, strolled into the kitchen just as someone began tapping on the window.

"That's probably Tilly," said the Cook. "Open the window."

The Policeman opened one of the tiny windows and Tilly Titter popped her head through the opening.

The TEENIE WEEENIES

BY WM. WM. DONAHEY



The sparrow giggled and twittered so much the Teenie Weenies could hardly understand her chirping but at last they made out that Ginky had gotten into trouble again.

"'E was mussin' around in one of the big 'ouses and 'e fell into a jar of molasses," she said. "'E's all stuck up and can't get the bloomin' stuff off 'is fur. 'E's licked 'imself off as far as 'e can reach 'imself, but there's a lot of 'imself 'e can't reach and 'e's been rollin' in the snow tryin' to get that off."

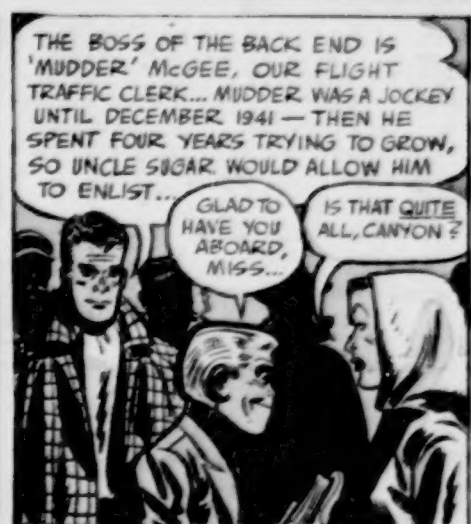
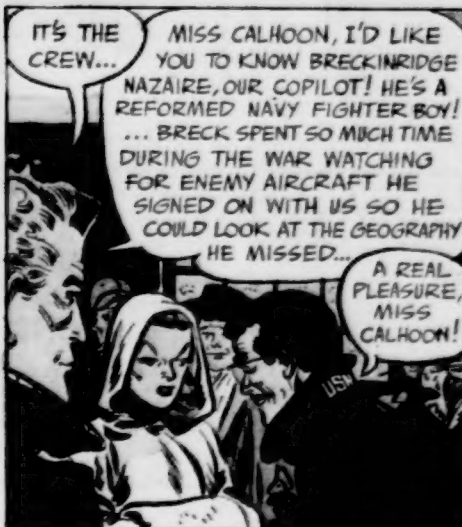
The Cook took a pan of bread from the oven and dumped the loaves out onto the kitchen table. "Serves him right," grinned the Cook. "Ginky and his pals are lazy thieving mice."

"It's too bad it isn't Summertime," giggled Tilly. "Then we would see some action."

"How's that?" asked the Policeman.

"If Ginky 'ad all that molasses on 'imself in Summer the bees and the flies would be after 'im a-plenty," answered Tilly.

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